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GHOST RIDER
DIRECT EDITION
PARENTAL ADVISORY
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WAY • SALTARES • TEXEIRA • BROWN
MARK TEXEIRA

Motorcycle stuntman Johnny Blaze made a deal with the devil, cursing him into becoming the Ghost Rider, a spirit of vengeance who hunts down the guilty and dispenses bloody retribution. While escaping hell, Johnny inadvertently freed his biggest adversary: Lucifer. The Prince of Darkness' essence was shattered into 666 pieces, each of which went on to possess the body of a recently deceased human.

Since then, it has been Johnny's quest to hunt down every last one of Lucifer's avatars, with each destroyed one adding to the power of those remaining. After destroying countless avatars, Johnny has stumbled across a plan to finally rid the earth of all the remaining ones with the help of his old lady, Dixie. In the process of hunting down one of the last avatars, he learns of the devil's contingency plan: a little league baseball team that a separate avatar is holding hostage. Meanwhile, the angels Vraniel and Emmael put their plan in motion, hoping to stop the mysterious Zadkiel...

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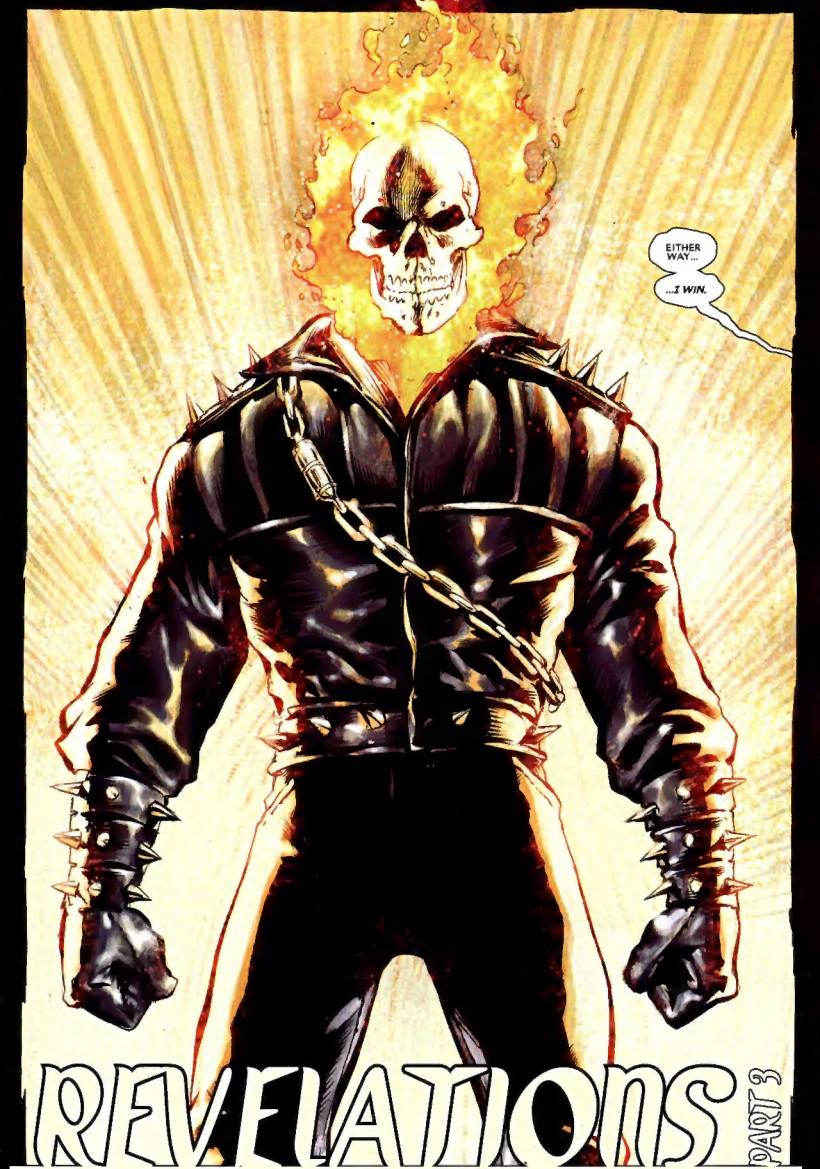
YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIM AT LAST YEAR'S CHRISTMAS PAR—
KROOOM!!
DEMON SCUM...
...I'M NOWHERE NEAR FINISHED WITH YOU.
OKAY.
YOU WANNA DO IT THIS WAY? FINE.



REVELATIONS PART 3

DANIEL WAY
WRITER

JAVIER SALTARES
BREAKDOWNS

MARK TEXEIRA
FINISHES

DAN BROWN
COLORIST

VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA
LETTERER

AUBREY SITTERSON
EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EXEC. EDITOR

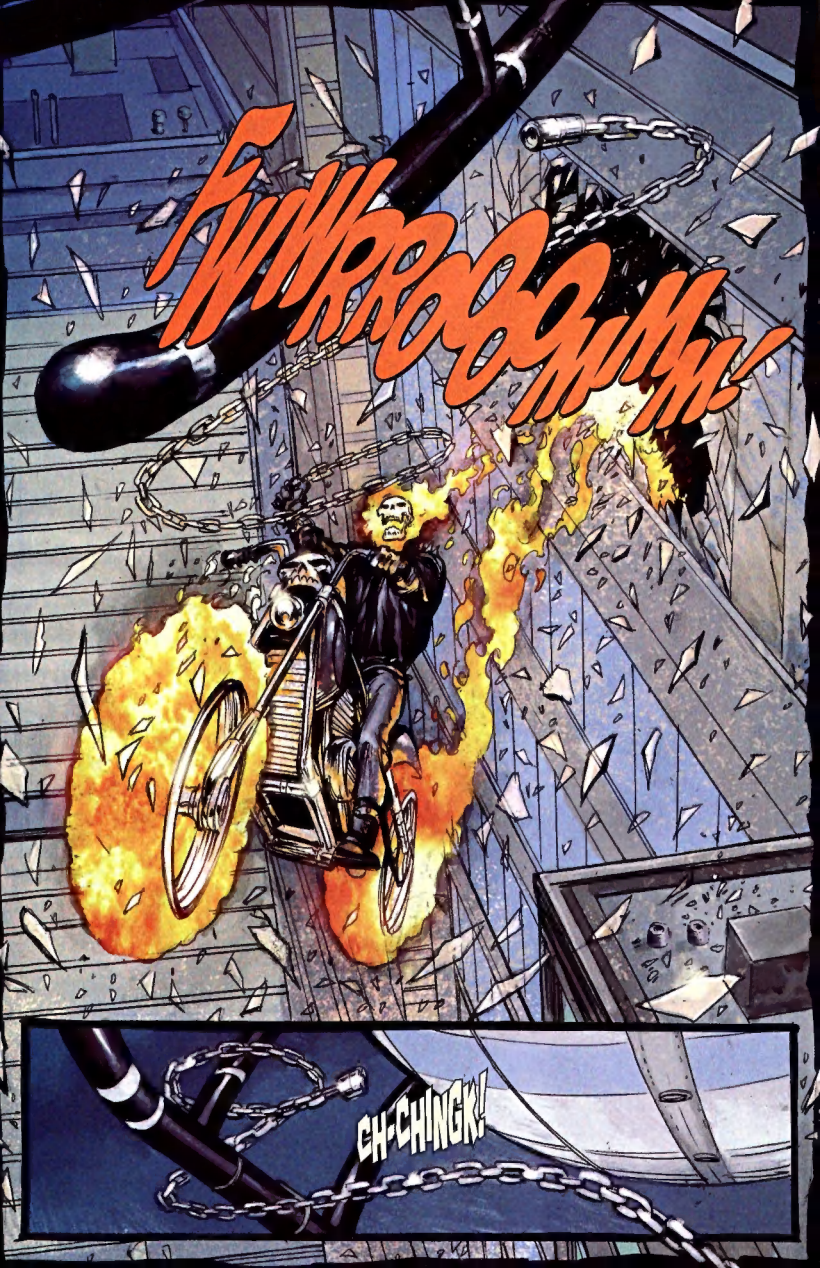
JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

GKK--!
THE PAIN I VISIT UPON YOU WILL BE THE STUFF OF NIGHTMARES.
I DON'T HAVE NIGHTMARES, DUMMY...
...I AM ONE.
THEN I WILL...
THEN YOU WILL...?
OH, DID YOU JUST HAVE A WIPEOUT THERE, OLD BUDDY? SHOULD I PUT DOWN SOME OF THOSE BIG ORANGE CONES?
OR A ROAD FLARE...?

I WILL HURT YOU!
YEAH, OKAY...
...BE CAREFUL YOU DON'T HURT YOURSELF, WITH THAT SCORCHING WIT.
HHHRRAAAHHH!
OH, BIG DEAL!
I CAN DO THAT, TOO.
BLUUAAHHHRR!

HHRRRR...
POLICE
IRRRRRRNNNNNN!
HEY, UH.. WALT?
I THINK WE SHOULD--


FWWRROOOMM!
CH-CHINGK!

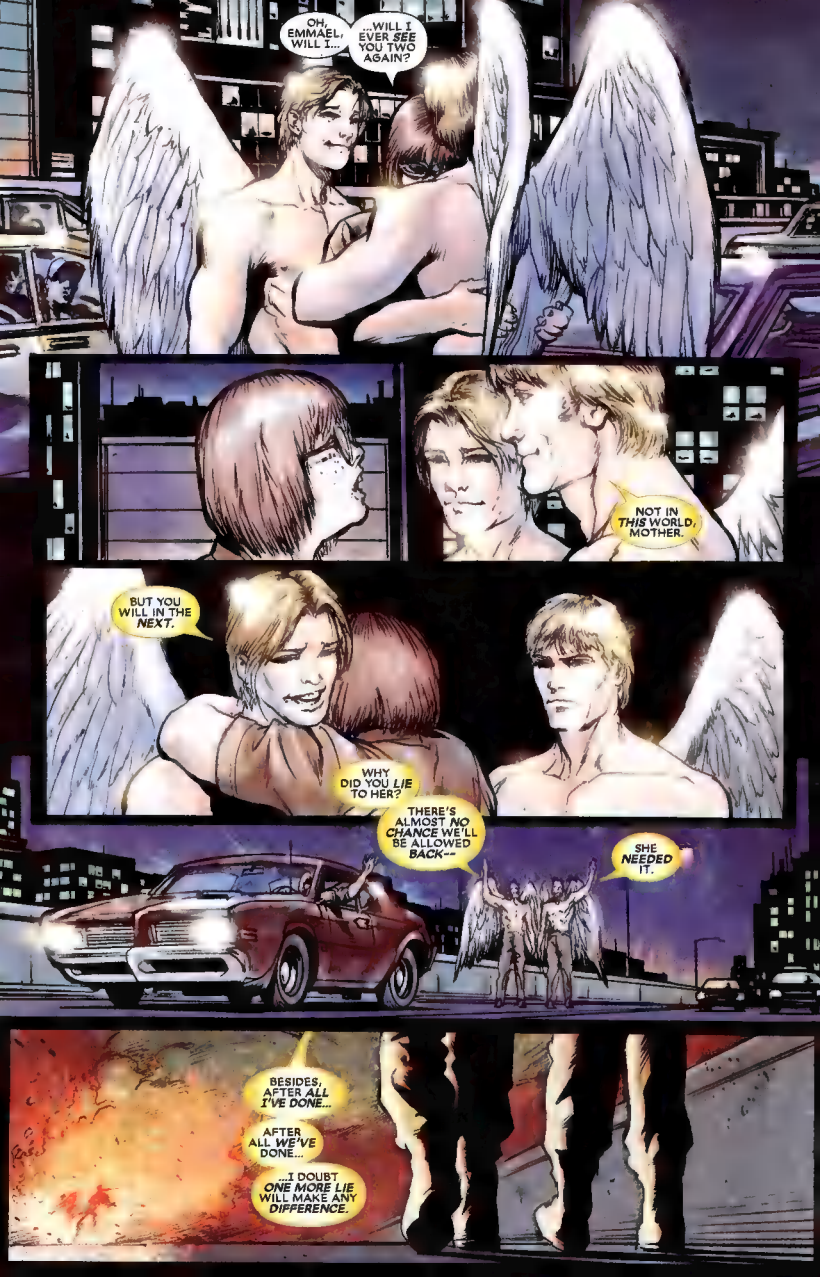
VNNNNN!
CLAKK!
FWWOOOMM!
FWWRROOOMM!
PROBABLY COULDN'T DO *THAT*, THOUGH...

HOW ARE WE GONNA DO THIS?
I MEAN, FIND THOSE KIDS BEFORE HE DOES...WHATEVER THE HELL IT IS HE'S GONNA DO?
WE FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF INNOCENT BLOOD.
"INNOCENT BLOOD"?! YOU MEAN, WAIT UNTIL HE--?
NO $?#%ING WAY AM I DOIN' THAT!
I'D RATHER--
SKRREEEEEEECHH!
"DOES HE SEE US?"

SENSE US... WHATEVER IT IS HE DOES?
DON'T KNOW...LOOKS LIKE HE'S THINKING.
WELL, THAT'S GOOD...
HE'LL PROBABLY ASSUME HE'S SENSING THE OTHER---
HOLD ON...
OKAY, SO... HE DEFINITELY SEES US.

SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE!
NO. YOU WON'T.
WHAT DO YOU---!?
BWAAAAAMMMMMM!

HOLY S#*$!
OH, UH... I'M SORRY... I'M NOT USED TO BEING AROUND--
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MOTHER.
WOULD YOU PLEASE LET VRANIEL AND I OUT HERE?


OH, EMMAEL, WILL I...
...WILL I EVER SEE YOU TWO AGAIN?
NOT IN THIS WORLD, MOTHER.
BUT YOU WILL IN THE NEXT.
WHY DID YOU LIE TO HER?
THERE'S ALMOST NO CHANCE WE'LL BE ALLOWED BACK--
SHE NEEDED IT.
BESIDES, AFTER ALL I'VE DONE...
AFTER ALL WE'VE DONE...
...I DOUBT ONE MORE LIE WILL MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.

UNNNHHH...
OH--
SCHACGGK--!
BEHIND YOU!
GRRRRRRR--!

RRRRAAAARRRGHHH!
WWIIIFFFF!
KRROOOMM!
HUNH?

GRRAAAHH!
KKRAK!
...YOU'RE WELCOME?
NICE PIECE OF GEAR YA GOT.
WRROOOFFF--!

BOOOOMMM!
OOQ-KAY.
WELL, THAT WAS A BIT--

--TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT?
NO, WE SHOULD BE FINE-- NEITHER *WE* NOR THIS *SHARD OF LUCIFER* ARE IN FULL POSSESSION OF OUR *CELESTIAL POWERS*... HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SENSE US YET.
BUT WHAT ABOUT... *HIM?*
I HAVE *NO* IDEA.
LOOK.
THEY'RE...
...*TALKING.*

NOW...
...YOU.
WAIT, OKAY?
JUST... LISTEN TO ME.
YOU AND I--UP TO A POINT--BASICALLY WANT THE [redacted] THING, RIGHT? SO...
...I PROPOSE WE WORK TOGETHER.
NOW, I KNOW IT [redacted] CRAZY, BUT...
...LOOK, FOR YOU TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF BEATING ME, YOU'RE GOING TO NEED--
HELP...?

I ALREADY HAVE...
...*"HELP"*.
KRROOOMM!
WHO...?
IS HE TALKING ABOUT...
...US?

GHOST WRITERS

Hello again, my Ghost-Babies! Hopefully you've been paying close attention to all the developments in this book over the past 19 issues, because this is where they all pay off. Anyhoo, you don't read this page to me babble, you read it to see yourself babble and then me babble back:

Dear Ghost Writers,

I just finished reading #15, and I just had to comment on it. I HATE cell phones. Well, perhaps not the phones themselves, but the wankers who insist on using them at inappropriate times...such as when driving. I cannot begin to express my delight at seeing Blaze burst into hellfire to confiscate the idiot's phone, not to mention the priceless terrified look on the moron's face!!! That one page alone totally justifies the entire price of my subscription, seriously. Classic, classic, moment. It would be so great if Ghostie runs into the guy again in a future issue and comes up with a creative way to return the phone.

I very much enjoyed the issue as a whole, as well. The story thus far is quite interesting and the artwork is nothing short of fantastic. A sure sign of a great art team is when the art is great on a page where not much is really going on. Take pages 1 and 2, as an example. It's just a mom upset with her slacker daughter, but the attention to detail is terrific. Specifically, the employee badge on page one, and the excellent drawing on page 2, showing the mom's shocked expression in the mirror. Very minor details. But again, the telltale sign of professionals dedicated to their craft. Very well done.

Lastly, thank you for HAVING a letters page in GHOST RIDER. So many of my favorite books no longer have one, and it's a shame. To me, a comic book just isn't quite complete without one.

Sincerely,
Mark Robinson
Colorado Springs, CO

Hey, Mark! Glad you're picking up what the GR team is throwing down. Jarv and Tex absolutely amaze me with every issue—they're an unstoppable team. It's also great that fans like you are perceptive enough to catch all the little subtleties they put in. For instance, look at what Dixie is wearing this issue—HATCHIE MATCHIE!

Hello Fellow Flameheads

My name is Stuart. I have been a flamehead since, well, the movie first new monthly. I have a few questions though

1. Where the heck are you guys going with the story? (These are more comments than questions.)
2. The splash screen in ish 13 was frickin' awesome!!!!
3. Give my regards to the artists for their excellent work
4. Keep bringing the great stuff, dudes!!

Stuart "Ghost" Rider

Hi Stuart! Thanks for the words of encouragement—it's especially cool to know that we're still indoctrinating brand-spankin-new Flamehead Fanatics. As for where we're going with this story... you're gonna have to wait to find out. There are a lot of pieces in the air, but trust me when I tell you, they come crashing down in historic issue #18, and the TWO resulting huge pieces of news will cause a GHOST RIDER earthquake that will be felt across Marvel continuity for YEARS to come. If you're a longtime fan, you'd be crazy (bad-crazy, not good-crazy) to miss it, and for newbies like Stuart, it's a perfect chance to cement your status as a GHOST RIDER MANIAC!

Hello Ghost Writers,

Your comic books are very cool and you have great ideas for them, but I think that a very good villain for the Ghost Rider could be Captain America, because he recently died and the devil has many ways to possess recently dead corpses...Anyway, I think it is a pretty good idea and because Captain America is a great super hero involved with the whole Marvel Universe, this could be a great saga involving the whole Marvel Universe--maybe as big as CIVIL WAR or WORLD WAR HULK. The devil as Captain America could fool some super heroes and turn them against the Ghost Rider and some others could help the Ghost Rider. If you consider this idea for the comic, a good way to say thanks is to name a random guy from the comic German Castellon. It does not matter if it only appears in one page--just name him German Castellon in the comic—that's all I ask for please…Well, that's all. I hope you take your time to read this e-mail. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
German Castellon

Well, folks, somehow German got a hold of our GHOST RIDER plans for the next year, so I guess make that ONE huge piece of GHOST RIDER come issue 18. Hear that, Daniel? They're onto us, no more Lucifer-possessed Captain America zombie. Sorry, folks.

Dear Ghost Writers,

I am a monthly reader of GR, and I enjoy the comics a lot, but I have a suggestion: Take out the curse words and nudity from the comics, and it will be perfect! F.Y.I. I know the whole hellfire thing is like his power and everything and that's fine. But the unnecessary cursing has got to go, as well as the nudity.

I have one more suggestion: you have reprinted the Johnny Blaze GR comics (first 20), correct? Well, what I would like to see is the Dan Ketch GR comics reprinted also.

Well, keep up the good work.

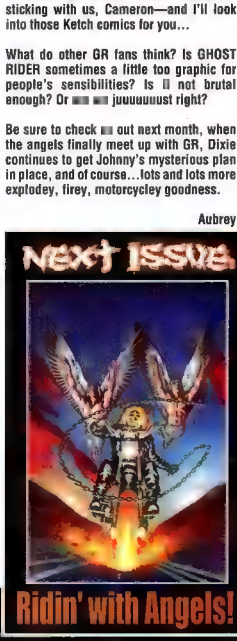
Cameron B,
Trenton, OH

Hi, Cameron! We try really hard to make a comic book that appeals to as many GR fans as possible, and in keeping with that, we try not to use any language or visuals that might offend our fans. But, with so many different fans from so many different backgrounds, it's sometimes hard to know what's too offensive, or just gritty enough in a book like GHOST RIDER. Thanks for sticking with us, Cameron—and I'll look into those Ketch comics for you…

What do other GR fans think? Is GHOST RIDER sometimes a little too graphic for people's sensibilities? Is it not brutal enough? Or juuuuuuust right?

Be sure to check out next month, when the angels finally meet up with GR, Dixie continues to get Johnny's mysterious plan in place, and of course…lots and lots more exptodey, firey, motorcycley goodness.

Aubrey



AUBREY SITTERSON
EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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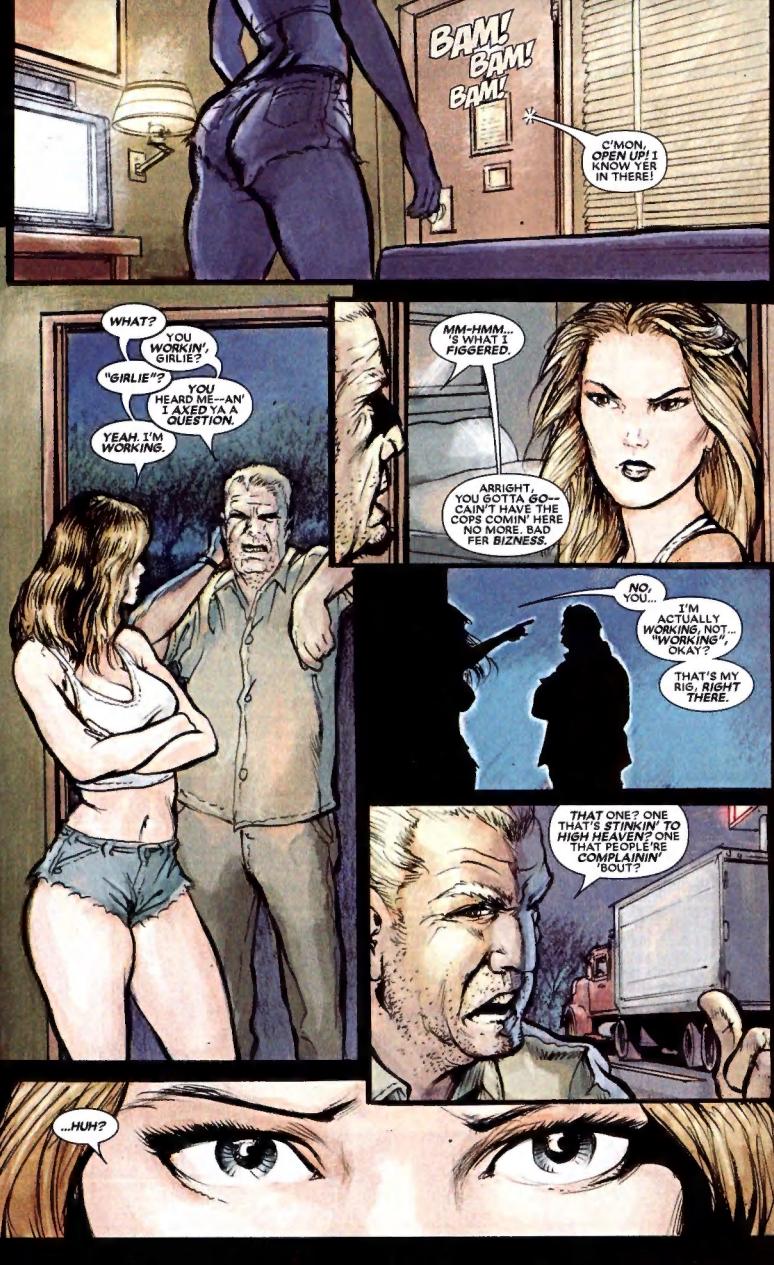
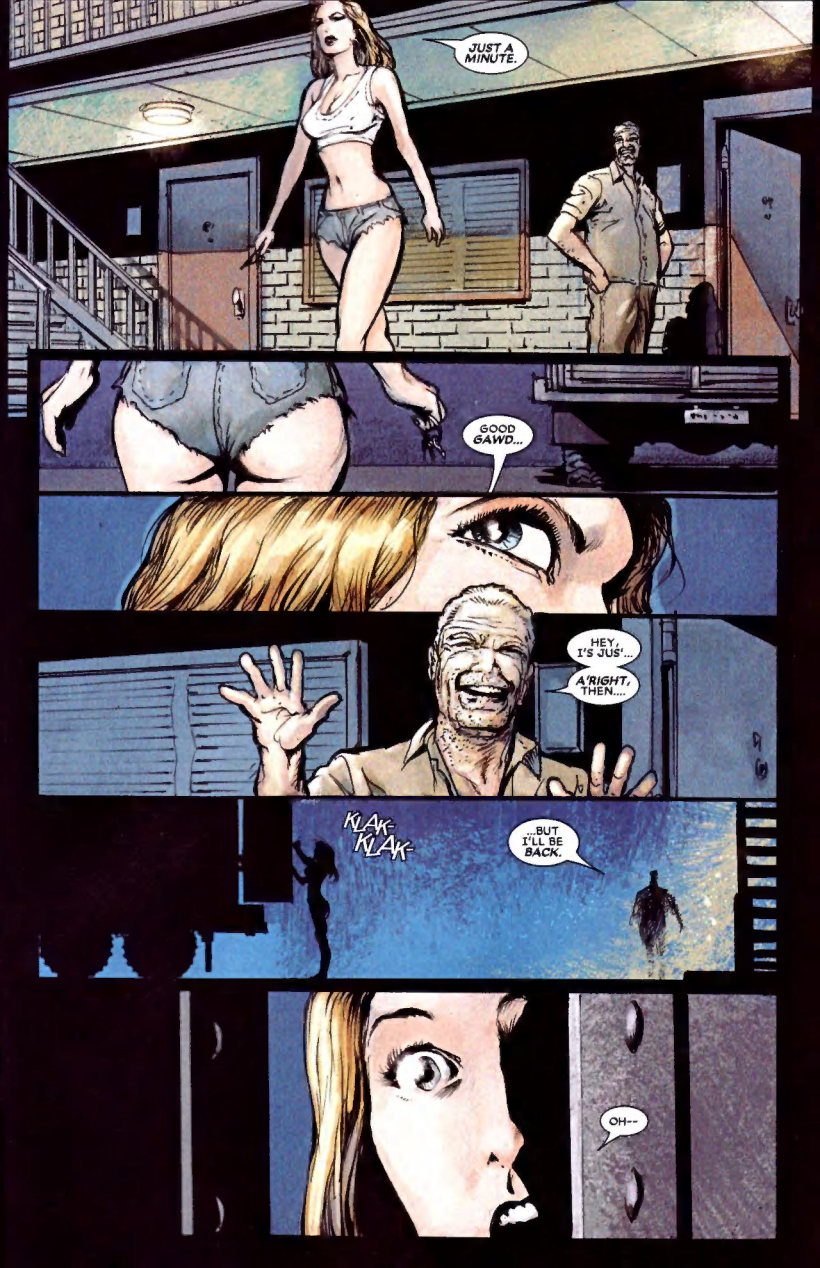

BAM! BAM! BAM!
C'MON, OPEN UP! I KNOW YER IN THERE!
WHAT?
YOU WORKIN', GIRLIE?
"GIRLIE"?
YOU HEARD ME--AN' I AXED YA A QUESTION.
YEAH. I'M WORKING.
MM-HMM... 'S WHAT I FIGGERED.
ARRIGHT, YOU GOTTA GO-- CAIN'T HAVE THE COPS COMIN' HERE NO MORE. BAD FER BIZNESS.
NO, YOU...
I'M ACTUALLY WORKING, NOT... "WORKING", OKAY?
THAT'S MY RIG, RIGHT THERE.
THAT ONE? ONE THAT'S STINKIN' TO HIGH HEAVEN? ONE THAT PEOPLE'RE COMPLAININ' 'BOUT?
...HUH?


JUST A MINUTE.
GOOD GAWD...
HEY, I'S JUS'...
A'RIGHT, THEN....
KLAK-KLAK-
...BUT I'LL BE BACK.
OH--

OH, JOHNNY...
HOW AM I GOING TO GO *THROUGH* WITH THIS...?
GGGHHHKKKKLLL...
To Be Continued...

TEAM
DCP
A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH
TAFT AND DELBOY